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CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany REPORTTOPIC Kummersdorf Firing Range

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

30 March 1955

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REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - sketch

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. It was learned during the first half of January 1955 that a target range for precision bombing and 2 practice ranges for aircraft weapons exist at Kummersdorf firing range. One practice range was 8 km long and the other 16 km. Soldiers wearing black-bordered blue epaulets were no longer observed at the firing range. an air force unit from Kummersdorf was transferred to Jueterbog in early January 1955. New troops were expected to arrive in Kummersdorf in the near future. 1

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2. During the period 11 - 15 February, twin-jet bombers were observed over Kummersdorf firing range only on 11 February between 0800 and 1300. The aircraft individually approached the target area and dropped 2 bombs each time. Four to 5 aircraft were continuously aloft.

3. The following observations were made at Kummersdorf firing range between 4 and 19 February:

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4 February. Between 0900 and about 1500, about 12 single-engine aircraft with yellow rudder assemblies practiced bombing every half hour. The AA gun emplacements in Jagen (forest sub-district) Nos 103/105 and 120 served as targets.

16 February. At about 0800, an alert was sounded. There was a clear sky and a light southwesterly wind. At 0930, 5 single-engine aircraft approached from the southeast at an altitude of about 600 meters. The aircraft flew in line-abreast formation with an interval of about 300 meters. They crossed the AA gun emplacements in Jagen 105/105. Subsequently, the aircraft made a turn to the southwest and south, arranged in ~~staggered~~ formation with an interval of about 300 meters and a distance of about 500 meters, and then approached the targets from the southeast. About 1 km from the targets, the aircraft flew in single-file formation at distances of about 500 meters, and approached the targets from the southeast at an altitude of 600 meters. Just before reaching the targets, the first aircraft made a 90-degree turn to the left, dived to about 150 meters, released the bomb and again climbed to an altitude of 600 meters. About 10 seconds after the detonation, the second aircraft dived to an altitude of about 30 meters over the target and fired at the target with aircraft weapons. Subsequently, the third aircraft dropped a bomb in the same manner as the first aircraft, the fourth aircraft then followed up by

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firing like the second one and, finally, the fifth aircraft dropped a bomb like the first and third aircraft. After the exercise, the 5 aircraft again turned to the southwest, south and north, arranged in line-abreast formation with intervals of about 300 meters, and approached the AA gun emplacements in Jagen 112/114 which were about 800 meters farther north. At an altitude of about 600 meters, the 5 aircraft flew straight ahead toward the target. The first plane made a 90-degree left turn shortly aft of the security line, dived 100 to 200 meters and dropped a bomb over the first AA target. Approximately 200 to 300 meters from the first impact, the second aircraft dived to about 300 meters over the ground and fired with aircraft weapons. Subsequently, the third aircraft repeated the bombing procedure like the first aircraft and also dropped a bomb like the first aircraft. The 5 aircraft attacked almost simultaneously. The bombs were dropped over the first targets and the firing with aircraft weapons was done 300 to 400 meters ahead of the targets. The exercises over Jagen 104/105 and 112/114 were alternately repeated 5 or 6 times. Each aircraft dropped 2 bombs. The bomb crates

were 60 to 70 centimeters deep and about 1.5 meters in diameter. Fragmentation bombs were presumably released because they exploded 40 to 50 cm over the ground. When the first formation of 5 single-engine aircraft had approached the targets for the last time, the next 5 single-engine planes came into view from the southeast and subsequently repeated the described attacks. The individual aircraft flew over the targets for about 20 minutes. The attacking of targets in the described way continued for 2 hours without intervals. Subsequently, there was an interval of about 1 hour. Afterward, formations of 5 aircraft again attacked the targets for 2 hours. This procedure lasted until about 1630.

18 February. The targets in Jagen 104/105 and 112/114 were again attacked by bombs and aircraft weapons of single-engine aircraft. On the two days of observation, the rudder assemblies of the aircraft involved were painted red. No jet fighters were observed over the bomb range. 2

1. Comment. Presumably the detail from Kummersdorf firing range which was transferred to Jueterbog is still working at Kummersdorf.

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2. Comment. The Il-10s observed on 16 and 18 February 1955 belong to the GA Regt in Brandenburg-Industriehafen, according to their tactical symbols observed. For sketch of attacking procedures, see Annex. sketch.

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Diagram Showing Attacking Procedure at Kummersdorf Bomb Range

